

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 06152 231755Z

67

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 H-02

PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /074 W
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R 231746Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0472

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 06152

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SENV, UK- FR

SUBJ: CIVAIR - CONCORDE

REF: LONDON 3400

1. BRITISH PRESS HAS FOLLOWED CLOSELY PUBLIC HEARINGS IN US ON FAA'S DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT. REPORTING, AT LEAST BY RESPONSIBLE PRESS, HAS BEEN OBJECTIVE AND FAIRLY ACCURATE. GENERAL MESSAGE CONVEYED IS THAT FUTURE OF \$2.5 BILLION ANGLO-FRENCH CONCORDE PROJECT HANGS ON DECISION SOON TO BE TAKEN IN US AND THAT THAT DECISION COULD GO FOR OR AGAINST BRITISH INTERESTS. THIS IS INDEED SOBERING NEWS FOR BRITISH, MOST OF WHOM HAD GAINED IMPRESSION FROM MEDIA THAT ISSUANCE OF DRAFT EIS IN MARCH HAD CONSTITUTED US ACCEPTANCE OF CONCORDE FLIGHTS (REFTEL).

2. WE SPOKE BRIEFLY TO BINNING, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CONCORDE PROJECT, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM PUBLIC HEARINGS IN U.S. BINNING SAID IN US IT QUICKLY BECAME APPARENT TO ANGLO-FRENCH CONCORDE DELEGATION THAT PUBLIC HEARINGS GAME WAS BEING PLAYED ON A "DIFFERENT WICKET" THAN THEY
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PAGE 02 LONDON 06152 231755Z

HAD ANTICIPATED AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO REDIRECT DELEGA-

TION'S EFFORTS INTO PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN TO TRY TO COUNTER THAT OF THE ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUPS. BINNING WAS NOT DISCOURAGED BY HEARINGS AND STILL FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC THAT CONCORDE WILL EVENTUALLY RECEIVE PERMISSION TO OPERATE TO JFK AND DULLES.

3. ON APRIL 21, INDUSTRY SECRETARY BENN WAS ASKED IN PARLIAMENT WHY HE DID NOT GO TO THE US TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF CONCORDE. BENN REPLIED THAT "IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, THE MATTER HAD BETTER BE HANDLED IN THE WAY IT WAS BEING HANDLED -- SO LONG AS IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT THE BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS HAVE A BASIC NATIONAL INTEREST THAT IT IS NOT FRUSTRATED BY ARGUMENTS WHICH DO NOT STAND UP."

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT NOISE, POLLUTION CONTROL, CIVIL AVIATION, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON06152
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750143-0358
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750425/aaaaaxdc.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LONDON 3400
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - CONCORDE
TAGS: EAIR, SENV, UK, FR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006